

A
SERMON

Preach'd before the

SONS

OF THE

CLERGY,

AT

St. Nicolas's Church,

IN

Newcastle upon Tyne, Sept. 9th 1712.

publish'd at the Request of the Stewards, and the
rest of the SOCIETY.

by NICOLAS BURTON, M. A.
and Lecturer in the Cathedral and St.
Nicolas's Churches in Durham.

Newcastle upon Tyne,

Printed and Sold by John White (Printer to the
SOCIETY) at his House on the Side, 1712.

(Price Three Pence)

ADVERTISEMENT

A Sermon preached to the Sons of the C
Upon their First Solemn Meeting at St. N
Church, in *Newcastle upon Tyne*, Sept. 10th,
By JOHN SMITH, D. D. And Prebende
Durham.

Also,

The Duty of Charity to the Souls of Men
Sermon preach'd before the Right Worshipful
Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, Sheriff, &c. of
castle upon Tyne, at *All-Saints Church*, on *All-*
Day, 1711; At the Anniversary Publick-Exa
tion of a Charity School there. By CHAR
WARD, M. A. Lecturer of *All-Saints*.

Both Printed and Sold by *John White*, at his Hou
the *Side*.

15...419

()

To the Reverend

John Smith, D.D. }

AND TO

Stewards,

Mr. John Rayne, }

AND

To the rest of the **SOCIETY**
of Clergy-mens Sons.

Gentlemen,

SINCE you were pleas'd to over-
rule the Design I had, not to Pu-
blish the following Sheets, and to lay your
commands upon me, (for such I account
your Request) to that purpose; I here
readily obey; hoping, That as you are the
Authors of the Publication, so you will be
the Patrons and Defenders of the Author.

This sort of Offspring of the Clergy do
often stand as much in need of the Love
of the Brotherhood, as that which

you

()
you have already so generously reliev'd;
writings having no better Treatment in the
than their Children; and that for the same
too, because they are *Theirs*.

You have undertaken to support the one,
have given more than one Earnest of your good
intentions; and thereby I am encouraging to
your Charity to the other: It is like the
the young Objects of your Society, weak and des-
less, pretending to no merit but it's Relation
and only not an Orphan. Yet since you are
rivals to it's Production, it is but Justice you
be instruments of it's Preservation.

Therefore, my Worthy Brethren, show the
section to it, which it so imperfectly expresses
wards you. Love it with that sincere tend-
it endeavours to persuade you to use to one another
and then you will be charitable Adversaries to
Enemies, kindly Just to it, and do particular Honour
to,

Gentlemen,

Your most Humble Servant
and Affectionate Brother

NICOLAS BURN

I St. Peter, II. 17.

Love the Brotherhood.---



HERE are two main things, my Brethren, for which you are here again met, *before God*, as a Society; *To Honour your Parents*, and to *Love one another*.

In the former of these Duties you have already been fully Instructed; (for you must let me leave to say *Instructed*, when I speak so able a Hand.) The latter I have now undertaken; not out of any vain design to reach so many Equals and Superiours; but that I may show my self a sincere member of our Brotherhood, by endeavouring to promote that, which is the Bond and Cement, the End and Perfection of all Fraternal Society.

Were it not for the Bands of Love, which the Prophet speaks, are the Cords of a Man; Relation, not even the Tyes of Blood, would be sufficient to oblige Brethren to dwell together in Unity: No Combination, no In-

A

dentures,

dentures, without That, would be strong enough to make those of one House, to be of one Mind. Nay even the Love-Feast, which we are now preparing our selves for, will be little better than a Riot, if it be only Titular. If there be such Spots in it as St. Jude complains of; such Divisions and Irregularities, as gave St. Paul so great Offence, as even to annul that most Primitive Custom.

It is no little Commendation to the Society we live in, that there is so general a propensity to revive those so long antiquated Practices of Charity: Which, as now practis'd, are without perhaps they may not be wholly of the same nature with the former; yet so much good hath been done by them, that we may justly hope there is now risen among us a true Sign of Primitive Christian Love, without the Inconveniences and Abuses of it.

It wou'd indeed be a more agreeable way to commend the pass'd Performance, than to excite to the future Duty; to set forth what has been already done, than to lay before what is yet to be doue: But since this Society is so young, that it's Atcheivements cannot require an History; I shall keep close to the Text; which, tho' it is so strict a Command to Love the Brotherhood, yet it wou'd not

the Fondness of an unseasonable Panegyric; It will be enough, if God grant, that those who succeed us, shall be able to turn our Exhortations and Perswasions into Commendations: that is to say, That you have *Honour'd your Father and Mother*, and that you have *Love'd the Brotherhood*. Which last, that we may the better do, I shall now endeavour to put you in mind of the several ways and means of *Loving our Brethren*; in order to perswade you to show those real effects of *Love* to them, without which *Love is no longer Love*.

But it may perhaps be first expected, that I should give an Account of the word *Brotherhood*; which being of so general and extended a Signification, will take in all Humours and Colours of Mankind, all Sects and Religions, which are no less distinguishing Characteristics of most Nations, than Blackness is of the *Ethiopian*, or Whiteness of the *European*. For no Difference of Complexion, either in Countenance or Religion, can make us Aliens to the Blood of *Adam*, God, as *St. Paul* says, *having made of one Blood all Nations of Men, to dwell in all the Face of the Earth*.

Socrates had a Notion that the whole world was but one great City, of which he had the Generosity to own himself a Citizen: And we

may with as good Reason call all Mankind
 one Brotherhood, one great Fraternity
 which every single man is a member,
 whether he will be so just with the Philosophers
 own it, or no.

As every man is a Neighbour to every man,
 so is he a Brother. But we must not forget
 that the Apostle here in the Text, more parti-
 cularly understands by Brotherhood, those
 who were initiated into the Christian Religion,
 says he, *Honour all Men, Love the Brotherhood*
 Showing us first our Duty to all Mankind; Then
 to those of the Household of Faith. But yet
 even this sense is too general for our present
 Occasion; our Brotherhood being in a much
 narrower compass than, either the Christian
 Faith in general, or even our own Church
 particular. Our Combination is confin'd
 to one corner of the world; and tho' the
 littleness of it may seem to make it Contem-
 ptible; yet the Members of it are Honourable.
 They are the most important part of the E-
 stablish'd Church; The Offspring of God's
 and Inheritance; The Posterity of those
 Minister at the Altar; Men who are Holy
 Birth, as their Fathers by Creation; Who,
 they inherit not the Priesthood, as did the
 of Aaron, yet that Honour and Blessing.

Sanctified

activity, so conspicuous in the *Priestly Office*, and consequences of it, they do and ought to inherit. Such is our *Brotherhood*, such is our *Relation* to one another; which we still make a nearer *Relation*, and a stricter *Brotherhood*, by consenting thus to meet before God and Love one another.

Now to *Love the Brotherhood*, there are two manner of ways, in *Word* and in *Deed*; by which division I intend not to distinguish *Charity* into real and verbal only; but by *Word*, I understand *Advice*, and *Exhortation*, and *Persuasion*, and *Correption*, and such other acts of *Love* to our *Brethren*, as may be performed by that little member the *Tongue*: By *Deed* therefore will be meant all *Actions* whereby we may *Love the Brotherhood*; such as *Alms*, *Helping*, *Personal Assistance*, and the like.

Of these two general ways and means, and their several sub-divisions, I shall speak as briefly and plainly as I can, with as close application to our particular case as the thing will bear.

First then, we are to *Love the Brotherhood* by *Word*. The first and perhaps too the greatest and best *Labour of Love* may be conceiv'd in the *Mind*, and declar'd by its Interpreter *Tongue*: This is a busy member, and is very,

very apt to fall into mutiny and disorder, if it be not employ'd in some public or honorable work. What wise Commanders do to their Soldiers when no Action is near, may be a good Rule in this case: They set them to build for the Common Good, instead of destroying and razing; instead of falling out, they are doing mischief to themselves, they are Benefactors to others. Thus that *Mill*, which is so often set on fire of Hell, should be heated and lighted by Love; that so instead of firing the World, it may be used to kindle and inflame in us Charity one towards another.

The first Act of Love proceeding from the Tongue, is *Advice*, and that either *Public* or *Private*: The former is often and well used in such Auditorys as this; the latter secret by Brethren amongst themselves. For this may be occasion, either as to matters of *Conscience* or *Policy*.

If that grievous complaint of the *Excess* of a marry'd Priesthood be true, there is indeed not only great occasion, but the necessity for *Brotherly Advice* in the first of these cases. But we are not only in hope that such a Scandal does not take place among us, but we are well assur'd that it is only a *Humour*, and us'd as an Argument against

age in Priests, when all others fail. For if
we were to make a general History of the *Le-
sons* of the Clergy, (for we know there
such a thing as *Fils de Prêtre* amongst those
the *Cœlibacy*,) we should not find among
a generation of men so many Worthy and
honourable, so many Virtuous and Godly
men, as in their Tribe. For as it is con-
sider'd that the English Clergy are the most Re-
gular, as well as the most Learned in the
world; so we cannot suppose that their Chil-
dren should degenerate, beyond all others, ha-
ving the *Example*, as well as the *Advice* of their
Natural and Ghostly Fathers both in one.

I know it is, and has been the Practice of a
malicious party to make *black Lists* of such as
in any way related to the *Altar*; but if we
conduct out of them all the *Calumnys*, all the
malicious *Lyes* and *Forgerys*, together with those
which *Christian Principles* which they lay to our
charge as *Crimes*, these long Rolls will either
perish, or redound as much to our *Commenda-
tion*, as to their *Confusion*.

But now, since we know there are such men
on either hand of us, so industrious to blast
our *Reputations*, and to blot our *Escutcheons*;
let us be as *industrious* to prevent all occasions
of *Calumny* and *Detraction*.

Many

Many of our *Brotherhood* have been *phans* so soon, that they could not we any great provision left them either of *Fortune*: To be sure the Poverty and Want of such forlorn creatures often lays them to great temptations of acting below selves, both as *Christians* and *Gentlemen* so I must call them, whatever their *Circumstances* be.) These therefore, my Bre are the Objects of your *Advice*; These great need of this *Love of the Brotherhood*

If then thou seest thy poor Brother himself in the world, for want of *Discipline* or *Management*, fail not to give him such *reasonable Counsel* as may retrieve his *Affairs*; endeavour to supply that want of *Education* which the death of his Parents has occasioned. In a word, if a Brother become a *Teach* him to bridle his *Affections*, and his *Passion*. Form his tender Years with *Nurture* and *Admonition*. Mould the *Will* it's true Shape and Form whilst it is so pliable. Teach him in the way that he shall and make such deep Impressions of it on his mind, that no age, or change, or circumstance may wear it out.

If he hath contracted any vicious habit before thy *Brotherly Love* hath found him

I with him not like a *Magistrate*, but a
 Father; the *Tenderness* of the one will go much
 further, than the *Austerity* of the other. The
 sweetness of thy *Advice* will be here of great
 moment: therefore be tender of his *Reputation*,
 as thou art endeavouring to mend his *Repu-
 tation*; and so carefully cover those *Faults*,
 which thou wouldst wholly blot out. Thus
 thou wilt make him a party against himself,
 who will be willing to be heal'd, which is
 the best State a Sick-Person can be in, next
 to Health itself.

I think I need not tell you that such *Societies*
 have more obligation to, and necessity
 of such *Advising* as I have urg'd, than any
 others: For you cannot but know, that tho'
 our *Brotherhood* be a *Common Cause*, yet ours
 is in more respects than the rest. Besides
 Religion, Relation, (and that to the *Altar* as
 well as to one another,) and Combination, there
 are some other Considerations more particular-
 ly requiring us thus to *Love the Brotherhood*; &
 to those fatal blots which single miscarri-
 ages lay upon us all. You know they were
 the sins of *Eli*, who made the People hate the
 Name of the Lord. But of this enough.

As to *Advice* in matters of *Policy*, it will
 be very difficult to give any Rules about it.

But thus much it is necessary to say, managing and contriving for the betterment of the great *End* of our Society, is the first and great *Aims* of the Society: man's Counsel therefore ought to be consent to this *Love* of the Brotherhood; as their's, whole Employments have given more than *Common Skill* in managing and improving *Stocks* and *Funds*. But this is the business of private *Consultations*, and *Committees* must therefore be left to their *Discretion*.

I should now speak of *publick Advice*. I have observ'd that there are so many so excellent *Discourses* upon these *Occasions* that it is wholly needless, were it in my power to offer any *Instructions* of this kind. *Sons* of the *Clergy*, upon these *Subjects* have even outdone their *Fathers* in all other. I may safely say, That there are no *Discourses* publish'd, upon any *Christian Topic*, that have more *Eloquence*, more *Affection*, more *Spiritual Advice*, more *Piety*, more *Love*, or a better *Aim*, than those *Sermons* that have been preach'd before such *Societys* as this. I leave to the worthy these our *Brethren* have shown their *Love* to the *Brotherhood*, I leave to the *Judge*, who yet want the *Pleasure* and *Benefit* of perusing them: Beseeching them

me time, not to omit any opportunitys of
great a Blessing.

There is one thing I wou'd suggest upon
this Head, but I know not whether it is not
already practis'd: I mean that those Discourses
which are publish'd at the Request of the Society,
should be made a Benefaction to it: And so, if
they be really valuable, they will make a
able profit. And now having said this, I
hope all will be cautious how they make such
requests.

A second way of Verbal love to the Brother-
hood is Exhortation; an Act of more boldness,
than bare advice, and such a one as should take
place, where the other will not. As it will
be hard to say much on this point, so much
need not be said. No man need to be
afraid, that where the still voice will not be
heard, it is necessary to lift up the Voice. Cry
out, Spare not, says God to the Prophet; lift
thy Voice like a Trumpet.

Some Men are so stupefied in their Sins,
that ordinary Advertisements will not awake
them. A Man must be earnest and warm with
them, before they be able to perceive his drift.
He must heap line upon line, precept upon precept,
till he can touch them to the Quick.

The *difficulty* and *danger* and *labour* sort of *Love*, must not be any excuse for the non-performance of it. What take thee some time and pains to put thy thoughts into good order and proper upon such an occasion? Will't thou leave thy *Brother* to dye in a Lethargy, trouble thy self to speak so loud as to bring him out of it? This is unkind, to prefer thy own ease to his preservation. But thou art lest that it is dangerous; and art afraid to incur thy *Brother's* hatred. Yet *hatred* will, ought to be no discouragement; it will soon be overcome by it. But the task is *hard* and *difficult*; but it is also *glorious*: The attempt only without success is not a little commendable. But remember that difficulty should be a Spur to a good mind, and a more forcible argument for diligence there cannot well be, than that *Business* requires it.

All *Brotherhoods* require this Duty in their own proper Affairs; but *our's* more particularly; many of us being in Authority, and qualify'd than the rest for such Undertakings. Besides our case more especially demands that the Scandal of forbearing such a Duty may not fall upon us. For where will

take place, if one Brother neglects it to
 other? Where may we look for it, if a
 will not use it to the Son of his Brother?
 But thirdly, *Persuasion* is much of the same
 nature with the foregoing Duty; but as I
 shall handle it, it may pass for a distinct
 head.

In the two former divisions we have con-
 sider'd more particularly the *Morals* of our
 Brethren, that so both we and they may be
 blameless before God and Men; I shall now en-
 deavour to make their *Principles* as innocent as
 their *Practice*. This is the proper business of
 the *Persuasion* to instill good *Principles*, and to con-
 vert the ill ones.

But here I desire my Brethren would take
 notice that I do not charge this or any other So-
 ciety of the like kind, with any guilt in that re-
 spect. But yet however, since the *Clergy* them-
 selves are not wholly free from the *Imputation*,
 it may be fear'd that some of their *Children* like-
 wise, may be liable to the same: I shall there-
 fore in a few words try to prevent or cure so
 dangerous a Distemper.

It must be allow'd that all such *Doctrines* in
 Religion as pass for *Principles*, but yet are
 not consonant to the *Word of God*, are *Evil*.
 For example, *The Lawfulness of Resisting the*
Supremacy

*Supream Power. A Denyal of the Deity of
and the Holy Ghost. Making Episcopacy a
Institution, and Assuming a power to confer
Orders; These, I say, are bad principles, be-
they have no countenance from the word of
but are directly contrary to it, as has been
sufficiently made out by many learned and unan-
imable Treatises in several Ages of the Church.*

*These false Doctrines are more particu-
larly scandalous to be held by the Clergy, or
Offspring; because they strike at the Funda-
mentals of the Christian Church and Religion,
and own more especially.*

For what shall we think of that man, who
Education, Subsistence and Fortunes depend
upon the Church, who yet maintains it
lawful to take up Arms against the Doctrine
of the Faith? What of him who denies the
Articles his Father Subscrib'd; nay perhaps he
too? How can He call himself the Son of
Church-man, who rejects the first words of
Gospel? With what face can He pretend
Relation to Christianity, who denies his Redeemer?
Or what right has he to so glorious a Title
the Holy Seed, who degrades his Sanctification
a word, What an unworthy wretch must
who ranks his Father's Honour, his Orders,
is the gift of the Spirit, with the impudent
Schismatics and Heretics?

For these and the like reasons, my Brethren, beseech you to persuade those among us, if there be any such, who thus deny the Gospel, they and their *Fathers* liv'd by, to return to a true and sound mind. There is no instance of *Brotherly Love* and *Affection*, which is greater than this. You can not do any thing more Meritoriously serviceable to the *Brotherhood*, than by showing this *Love* to such poor mistaken Wretches. I need not furnish you with Arguments: The Word of God, and the Labours of the Church, have made sufficient Provision of that kind.

But 4thly, *Brotherly Correction* is also an Act of *Love* to the *Brotherhood*; Tho' it may seem severe and unkind, yet the good end it aims at will make large satisfaction for the roughness of the means; nay, so it may be managed, as to have no Offensiveness in it; but we must be cautious how we forsake the Truth by endeavouring to speak smooth things.

Now this Duty is so necessary to the *Christian Society* in general, that I know not how to apply it with any particularity to our selves. Therefore instead of giving rules for it, let us pray that we have no occasion for it: That all who are Related to the Ministry may so behave

have themselves that they may be *unblam'd*.
That they may walk worthy of their *Freedom*,
Holiness, and their *Christian Vocation*; that
scandal may be given to those who are without.

This is what I cou'd find to say of the
general head: I know indeed many
branches might have been insisted on,
these I hope are the most necessary and ap-
plicable to our *Peculiar*.

I go on therefore to the **SECOND**
general manner of *Loving the Brotherhood*, which
is in *Dreed*: Of which neither the time nor
subject, tho' vastly copious, will suffer me
to speak many words. For tho' in such an
of general matter, it may be thought an
thing to find enough to say to all particu-
lar cases; Yet so many have had their choice
before me, that they have left me little to do,
to refer you to them. But besides, I sup-
pose that, by the Authority which the Society have
over it's Members, the manner and measure
of our *Almsdeeds*, I mean such as are requir'd
settled and fix'd. If all be bound to a
Contribution, to what purpose shou'd I lab-
our to make those *willing*, who have already
sented?

But here it will be reasonably alleg'd,
tho' prevented in that care, yet it will be

ed that we shou'd stir up the *Brotherhood*
 a higher pitch of *Love*, than barely to ob-
 ve the Orders and Constitutions of our *Fra-*
ernity. Our *Relation* and *Combination* make
 all equal; but why shou'd our *Charity* be
 al, unless our *Fortunes* also were so? But if
 y were, our *Meeting* would be, to no fur-
 r purpose, than a *Philosophical Symposium*, or
friendly Collation. Remembring therefore that
 necessary of such *Brotherhoods* as ours, pro-
 ds from the inequality of Circumstances in
 persons concern'd, we shou'd make as con-
 siderable difference in proportioning our *Alms*,
 there is in the *Objects* of them: That is, *We*
 ou'd give according to our *Abilities*, and they
 ou'd receive according to their *Wants*. For
 equal *Distributions*, and *stated Collections* are
 commendable in due place; Yet certainly it
 ou'd be highly ridiculous to supply all men's
 nts after the same manner: This wou'd be
 ing the *naked*, and *clothing* the *hungry*. There-
 e let every man be consider'd by his necessi-
 and according to his *Emptiness* let him be
 d with good things; and that this may be
 better done, let the *Rich* proportion their
 to their *Estates*. How meanly, how scan-
 dally will it look to find, in the ballancing
 Wealthy man's Accounts, *cypbers* and *units*

answering *Hundreds and Thousands?* To
 poor *Widow* giving all her *Substance*, and
Publican his *two mites*, wou'd raise the
 nation of all well dispos'd minds: Such
 haviour, wou'd make even a *Publican*
 scandalous, and give him a still better
 be rank'd among *Sinners*. For without
 tho' *Charity* is a *Free-will-offering*, yet
Duty; and therefore as a total omission
 be a great *Sin*, so a penurious, sneaking
 formance cannot but be *criminal*. 'Tis
 thou art not oblig'd to give more than thy
 but hast thou no *Honour* nor *Generosity*,
 nor *Gratitude*? Will neither the *Miserys*
Brotherhood, nor thy own *Abundance*,
 thee to *Liberality*? Consider that all thy
 fluity is the *Gift of God* to thee, and then
 in meer *Gratefulness* thou oughtest to
 some of it, some handsome share of it, for
 sake. Therefore my Brethren, You
 God hath Lov'd in a more conspicuous
 ner than the rest, Love you the *Broth*
 in the same proportion. You may
 stinguish your selves by your *Alms*, w
 Ostentation, as God has distinguish'd
 your *Estates*. Fear not to excell in good
 and as your riches have given you a
 in place, so let them give you precedence

asham'd to take the *Privilege* of your *Con-*
dition, if you are so mean and little as to
 take your *Condition* your *Privilege*: For you
 ought not to step before your *Brother in Honour*,
 unless you likewise go before him in *Generosity*.
 It is presumption to sit above him in *Place*, if
 you are below him in *Charity*. It is *Charity* that
 makes one *Christian* more noble than another;
 and if they who are rich refuse to make such a
purchase of Honour, they must expect to be de-
 spised, and postpon'd. But of all sorts of rich
 men, those of the *Sons of the Clergy*, are most
 excusable, if they are niggardly in this Re-
 spect. They cannot but have often heard
 their *Father's* urging the duty; and therefore
 if they have any respect to their *Authority*, they
 ought to be the most ready in their *Contributi-*
ons, especially since it is to their *Brethren*. If the
 persuasions of their *Fathers*, and *Love to their*
Brotherhood will not open their *Hearts* and their
purses, we ought to look upon them as *Aliens to*
our mother's children.

Now such Persons do a double disservice to the
Brotherhood, they are unkind themselves, and give
 ill example to them, who tho' not strictly of our
Community, do yet bear a *Loving and Charitable*
 heart towards us: Who wou'd without doubt exert
 themselves with more *Alacrity*, if they saw our Foot-
 steps before them. Let us therefore invite their kind-
 ness by showing *our own*; and let us also be grateful

to them in paying our respect of Commendation
Prayer for their Charity to the *widow* and
that so we may bring down a Blessing upon
for the Blessing they bestow upon us.

As to *Personal Assistance*, I think I need not
any thing of it, since Men are generally much
ready with their *Service*, than their *Alms*. He
cannot endure to part with any quantity of
will yet be ready to take great pains to serve
with his *Interest*. Perhaps he will not give you
his own, or contribute himself; yet he will
a *contribution* for you. Tho' this *Tenaciousness*
by no means to be commended, yet the other
lity is highly commendable; and that among
fort of Men so much as *Brethren*.

It is a certain sign we *Love the Brotherhood*
we spare not our *Persons* for their sakes. No
hath more Love than this, to lay down his Life
his Friend: And no man hath more reason
this, than those of our *Household*. We have
Enemys, more than any other sort of men
and therefore it is necessary that we the more
unite and combine to defend our selves against

But here lest I should be thought to blow a
pet, and excite you to *Arms* against your Enemies
I shall conclude all by the following short *Exhortation*,
Have no Quarrel with any; One no more
thing, but to Love one another: For Love is the
fulfilling of the Law: Of the particular *Law*
Brotherhood; and of the common *Law* of
charity. Which God of his infinite mercy
may sincerely endeavour to do, that so we
taken in to the *Brotherhood of Christ*, we
promis'd no further to *Love us*, than as we
Brotherhood. Now to God, &c.

F I N I S.

